

Safety ...Off The Job

Garage Sale Items Not Always A Safe Buy

Don't save money at the expense of safety.

Garage sale bargains can jeopardize your family's safety!

Hitting the garage sales on a Saturday morning is a favorite pastime for many die-hard bargain hunters. But don't save money at the expense of safety. Some items should not be purchased second-hand.

Keep the following in mind when you are out bargain hunting:

- Electrical appliances and tools could be a poor investment at a garage sale. They could be damaged and put you in danger of electrical shock or fire. A well-meaning home handyman may have tampered with them by rewiring, putting on a new cord or plug or removing a third prong from a grounding plug. Hand tools are no bargain if they are old and defective.

- Never purchase worn or damaged sporting gear. When buying bikes for yourself or your children, make sure they are the right size to operate safely, and give them a good mechanical check before using them.

- Don't buy second-hand safety equipment such as helmets, personal flotation devices, smoke detectors or fire extinguishers. These could be defective, or may fail to meet current safety regulations.

- Dishes aren't always a safe buy either. Some old dishes and pottery contain lead which can leach into food and cause lead poisoning. Cracked dishware is unsanitary.

Buying at garage sales can save you money, but don't jeopardize your family's safety and health for the sake of a few dollars.

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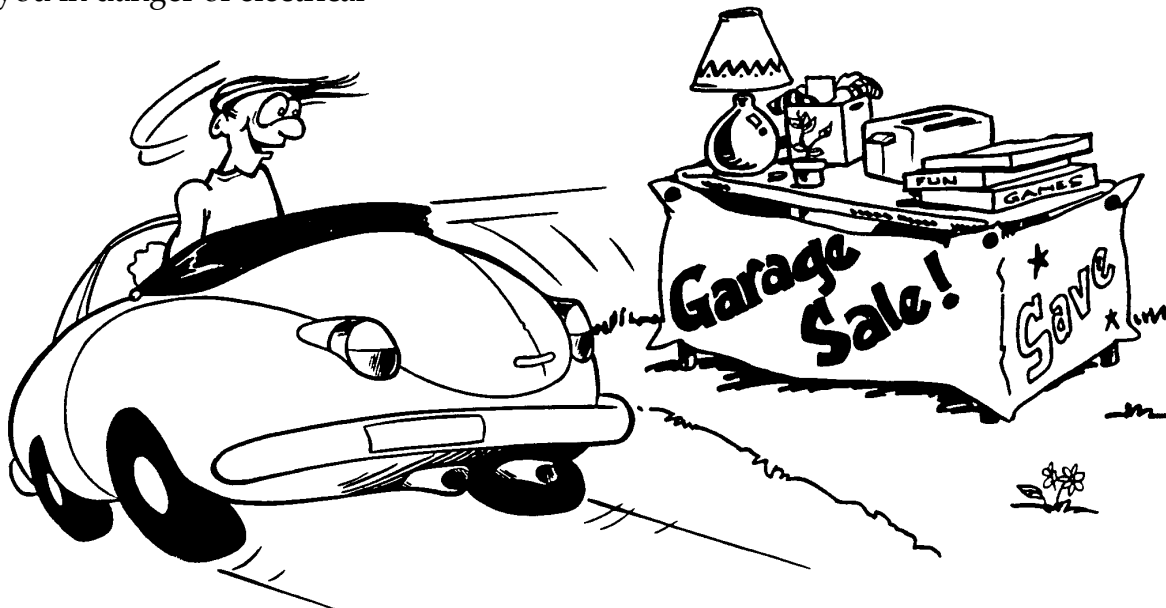
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